

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 11-12 remain in this application. No claims beyond those for which a fee has been paid are added by this amendment. The applicants request further examination of the application in view of the remarks as set out below.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 as being indefinite. Specifically, independent claim 1 is rejected because it is asserted that the requirement that recited teeth of drive links "are adjacent to each along the chain direction" is unclear and claim 6 is rejected because it is asserted that it is unclear what sprocket is referred to at line 16. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the teeth are adjacent to each other, and claim 6 has been amended to refer to the recited sprocket as a "back drive sprocket." Applicants submit that these amendments resolve any lack of clarity and request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Luce (U.S. Patent No. 1,201,748) in view of Belcher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 1,956,942). Neither Luce nor Belcher disclose a chain having interleaved series of links including links forming two teeth at a front side of the link. Luce doesn't disclose links forming teeth. Belcher et al. discloses a chain having interleaved rows of links and that drive links of that chain form two teeth. However, the drive links of adjacent rows of links of the chain disclosed by Belcher et al. face in opposite directions, not in the same front direction as now required by claims 1 and 6. Neither Luce nor Belcher et al. teach the chain recited by Applicants' claims 1 and 6 in which links in adjacent rows all form two teeth extending in a front direction.

The Action states at page 3 that it would have been obvious to modify the apparatus of Luce in view of the teachings of Belcher et al. "to include teeth on a first side of the drive links to more securely engage the transmission chain to the sprocket and to include drive flanks on the drive links on a side opposite a side defining teeth so as to enable the transmission chain to drive sprockets with both a first toothed side of the chain and a second drive flanked side of the chain." Respectfully, that rejection does not include all elements required for a prima facie case of obviousness. Neither Luce nor Belcher et al. teach a chain having adjacent rows of links in which each link forms teeth extending in a front direction. The only one of those two references

that discloses a chain constructed to engage sprockets on opposite sides of the chain does so by engaging sprockets identically on both sides of the chain. See Belcher et al at page 1 lines 74 – 91. Luce does not disclose a chain that engages sprockets on both sides of the chain. The assertion that it would be obvious to modify the chain of Luce, that does not engage sprockets on both sides of a chain, in view of Belcher et al. to engage sprockets on both sides of the chain but to do so in a way that Belcher et al. does not teach, i.e. different engagement on opposite sides of the chain, is not supported by those references and does not meet the requirements for a prima facie case of obviousness. See M.P.E.P. §§2142, 2143. The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Luce (U.S. Patent No. 1,201,748) in view of Kozakura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,926). Kozakura et al. discloses a chain having conventional teeth on the front side of the chain and that form a flat back surface between to sub-teeth t', surface f of links 2 and 3 as shown by Fig. 3. The chain disclosed by Kozakura et al. does not have guide links on alternating sides of adjacent rows of links, but rather has conventionally positioned opposed guide links on alternating rows. Figs. 3, 6. The guide links of Kozakura et al. provide surfaces that space sub teeth of links adjacent to the guide plates from a shoe face. Col. 4 lines 7 – 17, Fig. 4. The guide links space the sub teeth "slightly" from the shoe face. Id. Kozakura does not suggest that this function could be accomplished if guide links were not at each side of a row of links having sub teeth. Kozakura et al. also discloses a sprocket 6 having teeth that have tops 6A that are arcuate and concentric with the rotational center of the sprocket 6. Kozakura et al. col. 4 lines 1 – 6. The arcuate tops 6A support the flat surfaces f between sub teeth t' of a link. Id. The sub-teeth t' of a link contact a tooth of the sprocket that is between the sub-teeth. Id. That is, the drive surfaces of the sub-teeth contact one sprocket tooth, not adjacent sprocket teeth.

The Action states at page 4 that it would have been obvious to modify the apparatus of Luce in view of the teachings of Kozakura et al. "to include teeth on a first side of the drive links to more securely engage the transmission chain to the sprocket and to include drive flanks on the drive links on a side opposite a side defining teeth so as to enable the transmission chain to drive

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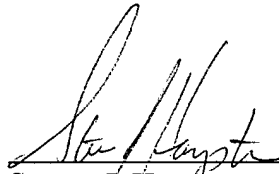
sprockets with both a first toothed side of the chain and a second drive flanked side of the chain.” Respectfully, Kozakura et al. does not disclose or teach a chain in which a back side of a chain is accepted between adjacent sprocket teeth as required by claim 6. Further, Kozakura et al.’s requirement that guide links space sub teeth from a shoe face is inconsistent with the requirements of both claims 1 and 6 that guide links be located on opposite sides of adjacent rows of links.

Neither Luce, Belcher et al. nor Kozakura et al. nor any other art of record anticipate or render obvious applicants’ invention as now claimed. The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly requested.

No fee other than for a one-month extension of time is believed to be necessary. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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